Government Policing Plan

and

Response to MLA Policing Review Committee Report

March 2004

Alberta
SOLICITOR GENERAL

MLA Report Recommendations and Supplementary Report Recommendations	Alberta Government Plan
1. All municipalities pay for policing and the funds received used to form a Policing Support Fund. *Supplementary: Implement "...funding participation from rural and urban municipalities over 2500 population" and province invest more money and/or resources into policing.*	Not Accepted – Alternative as follows: • Only urban municipalities with a population greater than 5000 to provide for their own policing. • Sustainable funding to these municipalities will be provided through a per capita policing grant. • Ministry will monitor policing/financial pressures facing municipalities to identify any critical needs not addressed by per capita grants.
2. Establish provincial Policing Support Grant Fund *Supplementary: Withdraw – combined with recommendation #1: "..province invest more money and/or resources into policing"*	
3. Return Municipal Police Assistance Grant funds to Solicitor General. *Supplementary: modified by adding – province add to this amount.*	Accepted • Done, included in funding described above.
4. 25% fine revenue to Policing Support Grant fund. *Supplementary: Revised. Solicitor General department should review current allocation to ensure fairness.*	Accepted as revised • Provincial fine revenue should go to the level of government that pays for policing. These funds will be reinvested in policing.
5. Study forming a crimes asset seizure team. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted • Department will consult with police commissions and police services.
6. Create "Deputy Constable" category of law enforcement. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted in Principle. • Department to work with police services and police commissions,
7. Special Constable authority on triple digit highways *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted • Already in place.
8. Review private security industry legislation. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted

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	• Develop new *Security Industry Act* that will not only provide appropriate regulation of the industry but will also define the relative roles of private security and police in areas where they can provide mutual support.
9. Evaluate use of aircraft by police. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted • Conduct a study into the cost and operational effectiveness of increased aerial response to calls by the provincial police.
10. Allow photo enforcement on provincial highways *Supplementary: Modifier- value of speed enforcement but photo enforcement should not be used outside of urban centres.*	Deferred • The use of photo radar on highways will continue to be prohibited pending a complete review of traffic safety.
11. Establish "Centre for Policing Excellence" for recruit training and ongoing professional development. *Supplementary: include Justice along with Learning and Human Resources and Employment as partners in development. Add "need not operate from one facility".*	Accepted • The ministry will work with Alberta Learning, Alberta Human Resources and Employment, post-secondary institutions and police services to develop a system of centres of policing excellence across the province that will deliver standard, high quality recruit and ongoing training. • This will help promote greater equity in terms of the level and quality of police services.
12. Establish a common police recruiting and training program. *Supplementary: no change*	
13. Solicitor General control and monitor use of firearms. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted in Revised form as follows: • This will be done for all areas falling within the Solicitor General's authority.

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14. Solicitor General to develop detailed, mandatory policies applicable to all police services and the minister have the power to issue regulations setting and approving policies and procedures. *Supplementary: the province should set standards.*	Accepted • Standards are now being issued that will ensure that police services throughout the province are able to provide or have access to the direct and support services essential to modern policing.
15. The Solicitor General issue policy templates and model policies. *Supplementary: wording change to reflect "provincial standards" rather than "provincial policies."*	
16. Develop plan for seamless communication and flow of information between police agencies. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted • Already underway in development of Alberta Public Safety Network (APSNet) that will allow police to share databases.
17. The Solicitor General continue to be a separate ministry. *Supplementary: acknowledge that the intent of policing being a high priority could be achieved in other ways, e.g. a commission.*	Accepted • Represents the *Status Quo*.
18. Conduct an external study of the operation of the Solicitor General. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted • Completed in the form of MLA Reviews of Policing, Corrections, and Victims Services.

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19. Form a Policing Secretariat reporting to the Solicitor General. *Supplementary: Create a police commission. The policing commissioner have extensive senior policing experience.*	Not Accepted. Majority of stakeholders felt the concept of a Policing Secretariat would add another level of bureaucracy. Alternative as follows: • Look at enhancing the role and involvement of the Director of Law Enforcement in providing policy, priorities, and standards direction and guidance to commissions and police services. These roles will involve working in consultation with police stakeholders and experts. • Create a ministry advisory committee.
20. Establish three advisory councils (Commissions, Chiefs of Police, Officers) *Supplementary: replace by a single advisory council with membership from the above.*	
21. The Secretariat include an audit and standards function. *Supplementary: change "secretariat" to "commission".*	Accepted • Standards have been issued. • The ministry will develop a method to monitor police compliance with these standards
22. Mandatory training for all commission and committee members.	Accepted with some modifications • All citizen oversight bodies will be provided with the necessary training and guidance, and the province will ensure they have adequate policies and procedures in place.
23. Solicitor General to develop protocols and principles for commissions	
24. Minimum 3 year term for commission members, and stagger the appointments. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted • Will be included in legislative amendments.
25. Municipalities to provide separate budgets for their commissions. *Supplementary: there are alternative ways to ensure independence of police.*	Not Accepted • This will be left to individual municipalities to decide.
26. Require council representation on police commission. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted • Will be included in legislative amendments.

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27. Police commission should represent the demographics of the community. *Supplementary: no change.*	Accepted • Municipalities will be encouraged to achieve this within the bounds of practicality.
28. All municipalities form a civilian oversight body similar to municipal commissions. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted • All police services and detachments will have a citizen oversight body that will provide policy and priority direction for the community (within bounds of any policing service agreement.)
29. When Provincial Police Service Agreement is renegotiated, policing committees be recognized as the official oversight body. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted • Will be part of the provincial negotiation position.
30. Each commission and committee establish a public complaints monitor. *Supplementary: part time or ad hoc alternatives for small commissions and committees.*	Accepted • All citizen oversight bodies will be provided with the necessary training and guidance, and the province will ensure they have adequate policies and procedures in place.
31. Law Enforcement Review Board forward policing policy concerns to Secretariat for follow up. *Supplementary: change "secretariat" to "commission".*	Accepted • Law Enforcement Review Board will forward concerns about policing to the Director of Law Enforcement who will follow up with police service. (see 19 and 20 above.)

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32. All incidents of serious injury/death to a civilian be reported to Secretariat for direction on how to proceed and create an investigation review team. *Supplementary: Serious incidents be reported to the Solicitor General for direction.*	Supplementary recommendation accepted in principle. Will be dealt with in the department's review of police oversight options.
33. Conduct external study of provincial policing alternatives in preparation for renegotiations of the Provincial Police Services Agreement in 2012. Should be led by MLA committee and include public input. *Supplementary: no change*	Accepted in part • The ministry will conduct research and evaluation into various aspects of policing and police governance, including alternatives for provincial policing, crimes asset seizures, best practices and alternative complaint resolution.
34. The Solicitor General and First Nations develop a province wide or regional First Nations policing model with similar standards and authorities to municipal police.	Accepted with following modifications: • We will ensure the viability of First Nations police services by working towards a centralized infrastructure and oversight mechanism for First Nations police services. • First Nations police officers will have the same roles, duties, authority, responsibilities and meet the same standards of performance and accountability as municipal police officers.
35. Police Officer Association should carefully monitor their partisan political activity. Legislation should be a last resort. *Supplementary: Legislation should be in the Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act.*	Accepted • Police Officer Associations, through the Federation of Police Associations, will be encouraged to implement this.

New. *Supplementary: Proceed with previous Public Security Division's recommended legislative change.*	Accepted
	• In consultation with policing stakeholders, the ministry will review legislation in order to:
	  • Streamline complaint handling and disciplinary procedures.
	  • Increase transparency and public confidence in complaint handling, and
	  • Identify other legislative changes that will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of policing.